

## Why do we have a Stormwater Utility?

Rockdale County created the Stormwater Utility in 2005 to comply with requirements established by the Federal Water Quality Act of 1987. In order to meet these requirements, the Stormwater Utility must inspect and maintain its drainage systems, educate the public about proper stormwater management, and enforce practices to reduce pollution caused by stormwater runoff.



## What are Stormwater Utility fees, and how are they used?

Rockdale County chose to fund its Stormwater Utility by assessing a fee based upon a property's impact on the County's drainage infrastructure and water quality, not according to a property's assessed tax value.

The Stormwater Utility funds are only utilized for stormwater management program needs. Funds allow the Stormwater Utility to:

- Satisfy State and Federal requirements for inspection, education, enforcement, plan review, and reporting to promote better water quality.
- Inspect, maintain, repair, replace, and construct public stormwater infrastructure.
- Provide surveying, engineering, permitting, and procurement services when necessary for the construction and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure.
- Operate the Stormwater Utility.

## Why do we need to pay Stormwater Utility Fees?

The Rockdale County Stormwater Utility operates like any other utility company, and depends entirely on stormwater user fees to operate. If these fees are not collected, it could result in increased road closures, flooding, property and environmental damage, safety concerns, and/or higher property taxes.



## How do I contact the Stormwater Utility?

### For General Questions:

Main Office: 770-278-7100

Fax: 770-278-8920

Email: [rcswu@rockdalecounty.org](mailto:rcswu@rockdalecounty.org)

### For a Stormwater Maintenance Service Request:

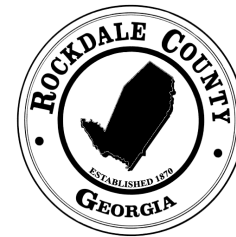
- Call 770-278-7100, and ask for the Stormwater Maintenance Superintendent; or
- Visit [www.rockdalecounty.org](http://www.rockdalecounty.org). Then, please:
- Select the "Stormwater Utility" department;
- Select "Stormwater Service Request" tab;
- Fill out the appropriate information and submit.

### For Billing:

- Call 770-278-7100, and ask for a Stormwater Billing Representative
- You may also e-mail your questions to: [Stormwater.Billing@rockdalecounty.org](mailto:Stormwater.Billing@rockdalecounty.org)
- During the peak billing season (January-March) you may be directed to the stormwater billing phone line (770-278-7131) where you will be asked to leave a message with all necessary information. A billing representative will return your call as soon as they are available; however, it may take up to several days to return a phone call due to the high call volume.

### For Environmental Concerns within the County (illicit discharge, illegal dumping, stormwater pollution, environmental hazards):

- Call the 24-Hour Environmental Hotline at 770-278-7145; or
- Visit [www.rockdalecounty.org](http://www.rockdalecounty.org). Then, please:
- Select the "Stormwater Utility" department;
- Select "Contact Us" tab;
- Select the Illegal Dumping Form;
- Fill out the appropriate information and submit the form to [rcswu@rockdalecounty.org](mailto:rcswu@rockdalecounty.org).



Rockdale County  
Department of  
Planning & Development

## Stormwater Utility

## *What are illicit discharges and how can you help?*



Administration & Services Building  
P.O. Box 1495, 958 Milstead Avenue  
Conyers, Georgia 30012

Office: 770-278-7100

24-Hour Hotline: 770-278-7145

Stormwater Events: 770-278-7142

[rcswu@rockdalecounty.org](mailto:rcswu@rockdalecounty.org)  
[stormwater.events@rockdalecounty.org](mailto:stormwater.events@rockdalecounty.org)  
Website: [www.rockdalecounty.org](http://www.rockdalecounty.org)

## What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is anything other than rainwater that is dumped, poured, swept, blown, or somehow discharges into a storm drain, drainage ditch, or water body either intentionally or accidentally. Illicit discharges pollute the water bodies that we use for swimming, fishing and drinking supply. Illicit discharges are illegal per the County's ordinances and are subject to enforcement.

### Common household activities that generate illicit discharges can include, but is not limited to:

- Improper disposal of yard debris, blowing grass clippings and/or leaves
- Sediment from land disturbance activities (landscaping, tree removal, gardening)
- Improper storage or disposal of household hazardous wastes, chemicals, and paint
- Improper disposal of mop water
- Improper cleanup or disposal of pet waste
- Overuse of fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides



- Draining swimming pools
- Septic system failures
- Improper storage or disposal of batteries, motor oil and other vehicle fluids
- Washing machines or sinks not properly tied to sanitary sewer or septic systems
- Improper disposal of cooking

grease and oil

- Dirty and soapy water from car washing
- Improper disposal of used tires
- Littering, including cigarette butts



## How can I get involved?

### 1. Report the Illicit Discharge

If you see an illicit discharge that is causing stormwater pollution, please report the incident to our 24-Hour Environmental Hotline at 770-278-7145. Please document as much information as possible, such as the date and time of occurrence, location/address of issue, responsible party if known, and type of illicit discharge. Additionally, please submit any photographs or video footage with date stamps if available.

### 2. Participate in the Storm Drain Stenciling Program

Volunteers of the storm drain stenciling program will receive a presentation and free stenciling kit from Stormwater Utility personnel with all supplies necessary to participate. Volunteers work at their own pace to attach stencils (a 4-inch diameter plastic decal with the message "No Dumping Drains to Stream") with glue to local storm drains. Attaching stencils to storm drains helps to remind and educate citizens that water quality and aquatic life are directly affected by any pollutants entering storm drains.



### 3. Participate in a County Cleanup Event

Litter is a major source of stormwater pollution in Rockdale County. Therefore, twice a year Keep Conyers-Rockdale Beautiful (KCRB), Rockdale County and the City of Conyers organize community cleanup events in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup in the spring and Rivers Alive in the fall. Both of these events are highly anticipated in our community for those who want to give back through a day of service. During these cleanup events, volunteers pick up litter along streams in their neighborhoods, parks, around schools, along County/City roads, in parking lots and other public areas.

Valid stenciling or cleanup participation will qualify participants for a 5% Watershed Stewardship Stormwater Utility Credit on their County stormwater utility bill. If interested in participating, please contact the Stormwater Events line at 770-278-7142.

## How can I reduce stormwater pollution?

- Educate your friends and family about stormwater pollution prevention
- Put litter in its proper place, not on the ground
- Recycle your car batteries, used motor oil, used oil filters, and vehicle fluids properly
- Compost your yard waste
- Use fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides sparingly
- Sweep extra fertilizer, grass clippings, and dirt on your driveway or road back onto your lawn
- Reduce the amount of cleaning and maintenance chemicals used
- Dispose of household hazardous wastes only at designated locations



- Pick up after your pet and dispose of waste properly
- Complete regular vehicle maintenance and inspect for leaks frequently; if found, repair them immediately

- If you wash your vehicle at home, do so on the lawn rather than the pavement
- Have your septic tank pumped and septic system inspected regularly
- Never drain your pool water into a storm drain, ditch, lake, stream, or wetland
- Install a rain garden or rain barrel on your property
- Never blow, sweep, dump, or pour anything into a storm drain, drainage ditch, or water body



Remember, anything that enters a storm sewer system or drainage ditch is released without treatment (i.e. not cleaned or filtered) into bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and drinking.

*For more information about illicit discharges, please visit the website at [www.rockdalecounty.org](http://www.rockdalecounty.org)*